

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet, People's Police and East German Army Activities in the Halle Area

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Soviet, People's Police and East German National People's Army (NVA/H) activities in the Halle area. The report gives the following information:

1. Activities and training exercises of various troop units, in brief.
2. Equipment observed, including a description (with sketch) of four tarpaulin-covered vehicles towed by half-track vehicles belonging to an AA unit.
3. Training activities, with brief descriptions of training being carried out.
4. Rail shipment seen loaded in the Wittenberg railway station on 16 March 1957, headed in the direction of Halle, carrying 19 SU-100's and three trucks, with troops.
5. An apparent change in the divisional organization of the 21st Guards Mechanized Division, at Halle, with the removal of the AA troops from the Heide and Woermlitz Kasernen for Merseburg on 27 and 28 February 1957.

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EAST GERMANYMILITARYSOVIET AND EGA ACTIVITY IN HALLE AREA(5 Feb - 16 March 1957)

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1. PERSONNEL

- (a) [] Three senior Soviet and three senior MGA officers drove to the Engineer Camp on the SAALE River. 25X1
- (b) [] About 500 EGA troops and 50 officers took part in an engineering exercise at the SAALE camp, with Soviet Army supervision and co-operation. For equipment see below. 25X1
- (c) [] About 100 Soviet Engineer troops and 100 Volkspolizei (not EGA) carried out training in bridge-building at BRACHWITZ/SAALE. For equipment see below. 25X1
- (d) [] All A.A. troops except those for permanent barrack defence left the HEIDE Kaserne (BS 8201) and the WÖRMLITZ Kaserne (BS 8203) and proceeded by road with guns and vehicles to MERSEBURG. See below "Change of organisation". 25X1
- (e) Preparations are being made in the HEIDE Kaserne for the move to the Summer Camp at LOSSA between end-March and mid-April.
- (f) [] Since this date no Engineer troops have been stationed in the HEIDE Kaserne. 25X1

2. EQUIPMENT

- (a) The EGA troops in 1(b) were equipped with:-
[] 2 officers and
about 25 men. 25X1
6 small armoured reconnaissance cars
4 armoured personnel carriers
5 amphibious tanks
- Assault boats and pontoons were supplied by the Soviet Engineer troops. The EGA troops used both their own weapons and those lent by the Soviet troops.
- (b) The Volkspolizei in 1(c) were equipped with their own inflatable boats. Bridgebuilding equipment was supplied by the Soviet troops.
- (c) [] 12 BSL Folding boats were seen in use during training on the SAALE. See below "Training". 25X1
- (d) 12 BA-64 reconnaissance cars belonging to the Soviet troops and 7 BA-64 reconnaissance cars belonging to the EGA were in use twice weekly in February for Soviet/EGA training on the Airfield alongside the HEIDE Kaserne.

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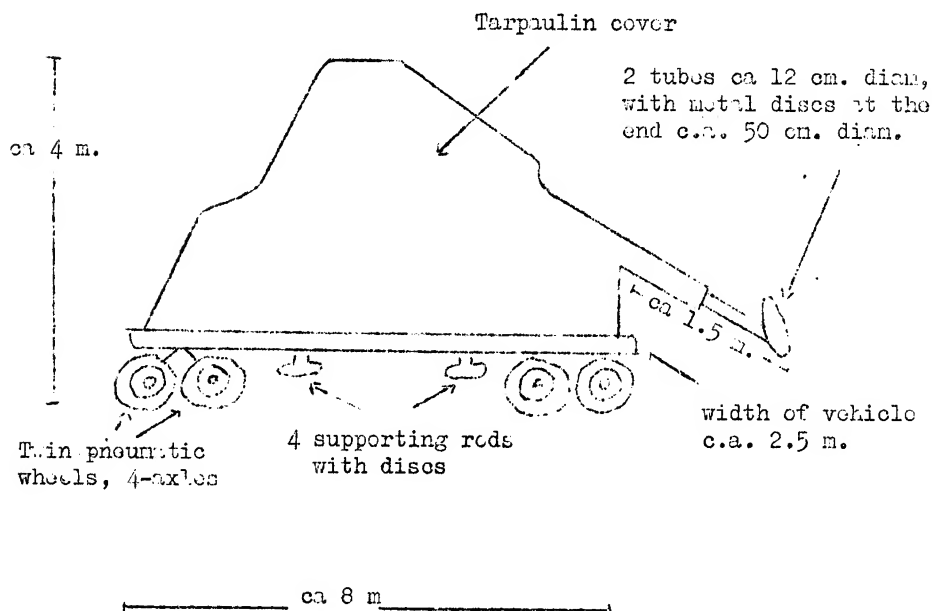
- (e) [redacted] Several T54 Tanks (number and destination unknown) left the WÖRMLITZ Kaserne (BS 8203) and were loaded at AMMENDORF Railway Station.

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- (f) [redacted] The AA troops leaving the WÖRMLITZ Kaserne for MERSEBURG took with them 4 tarpaulin covered vehicles (see sketch below) towed by half-track vehicles which also carried about 8-10 men each.

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- (g) The EGA AA troops in HALLE have taken over from the Soviet troops in the WÖRMLITZ Kaserne 16 x 65 mm M 1939 AA guns and 4 x E-Range finders. The EGA will shortly also receive 100 mm. AA guns.

- (h) The HEIDE Kaserne still has as its permanent AA barrack defence 12 x 122 mm. M 1955 guns and 3 Radar fire control installations. The control installations appear to be connected to a junction box about 40 x 40 x 40 cm. standing in the middle of a square 50 x 50 m. of 4 guns. Cables run from the junction box to each gun, and the guns rove simultaneously and identically for line and elevation. Each gun has a detachment of 5 men, one of whom has earphones and a microphone cup mouthpiece, while the other 4 serve the gun.

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- (j) [] The following equipment was observed during a Soviet/EGA exercise on the BRANDBERGEN:- 25X1

12 x JS3
Machine Pistols
Machine guns.

- (j) [] The following equipment was observed during a Soviet exercise on the BRANDBERGEN:- 25X1

4 x T54
3 SU 100
Rader fire control vehicles
2 wireless trucks.

- (k) Nights of [] The following equipment was observed during a Soviet Tank and Infantry (live ammunition) exercise on the BRANDBERGEN:- 25X1

Mobile searchlights with a faint beam, which, however, showed up the targets clearly. The beam itself was not easily seen.

- (l) [] Since this date 2 amphibious tanks and two 6 x 6 wheeled amphibious tanks have been observed in use at the Engineer Camp on the SAALE River. 25X1

- (m) In the HEIDE Kaserne 16 amphibious tanks and 12 wheeled amphibians have been seen in the storage sheds.

- (n) Motor-cycle and sidecar combinations have been observed in March in use on the Airfield alongside the HEIDE Kaserne for live ammunition firing practice while in movement, by Soviet and EGA troops.

- (o) In the middle of February 1957 3 heavy wireless trucks with 15 metre high Dipole aerials were observed standing outside the staff HQ building in the HEIDE Kaserne.

3. TRAINING

- (a) [] Soviet troops in detachments of 6 men to a boat were observed on the SAALE River using 12 DSL folding boats. They lay with their boats about 150 metres from the river bank and about 50 metres between boats. On a given signal, they ran to the bank, carrying their boats, assembled them at speed, and launched them. This movement was repeated many times. 25X1

- (b) [] Engineer training carried out at the Engineer Camp on the SAALE River by EGA and Soviet troops jointly. For equipment see above. 25X1

- (c) [] Volkspolizei (not EGA) carried out training (with Soviet help) on bridge-building at BRACHWITZ/SAALE. For equipment see above. 25X1

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- (d) [] Joint infantry training of EGA and Soviet troops took place on the Airfield alongside the HEIDE Kaserne. The EGA and Soviet companies were not mixed, but were deployed as a combined force. They used MGs, smoke grenades, and R/T. 25X1
- (e) Daily training during February was noted on the Airfield being carried out by EGA and Soviet Infantry in map reading and compass work. Signals troops were seen practicing cable laying.
- (f) [] AA training was carried out in the barracks with 4 x 122 mm M 1955s and 1 Radar fire control. Similar training was again observed early in March, each gun having a detachment of 5 men, though change of line and elevation of all four guns seemed to be automatic and simultaneous. See equipment 2(h) above. 25X1
- (g) [] On the BRANDBERGEN, 12 Soviet-manned JS3s were seen each carrying about 10 EGA Infantry, who fired with MPs and MGs from the moving tanks at stationary targets in butts. 25X1
- (h) [] On the BRANDBERGEN, 4 x T54s and 3 x SU 100 carried out an exercise with the help of Radar and W/T control. (1 x Radar control, 2 W/T trucks). The tanks were camouflaged and divided into two opposing pairs. One pair stood concealed and in dead ground, while the SU 100s appeared to be guided towards them by Radar and W/T control. 25X1
- (i) [] Night exercises were carried out on the BRANDBERGEN by Soviet Tanks and Infantry. Mobile searchlights were used to pick out targets. The beams themselves seemed very faint, though the targets were shown up very clearly when the beams reached them. 25X1
- (j) [] Since this date amphibious training for Soviet infantry has been going on in the Engineer Corp on the SAALE River. 2 amphibious tanks and two 6 x 6 wheeled amphibians have been observed, each boat carrying about 30 men. 25X1
- (k) March 57 Soviet and EGA troops have been observed carrying out training in firing with live ammunition from moving motorcycle and sidocar combinations.

4. RAIL MOVEMENT

[] 16.00 hrs A train was observed standing in WITTENBERG Railway Station, facing in the direction of HALLE, with the following Soviet Transport:-

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19 SU 100

[] 4 M. wagons with troops.

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5. CHANGE IN SOVIET DIVISIONAL ORGANISATION AT HALLE

It is believed locally that with the departure of the AA troops from the HEIDE and WÖRMLITZ Barracks for MERSEBURG [REDACTED] these troops are now removed from their divisional role and from the command of the GOC 21 Gds Mech Division, HALLE, and are now a part of the overall air defence organisation. They will only have liaison with the Division on a tactical basis in future.

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